

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Jean D. VAN EPPS, JR. et al.

Group Art Unit: 1746

Application No.: 10/620,663

Examiner: M. KORNAKOV

Filed: July 16, 2003

Docket No.: 118727

For: ONE-PIECE BOTTOM EDGE WIPE SPONGE FOR CLEANING A
PHOTORECEPTOR DRUM

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

M.K.
01/26/07

In reply to the November 15, 2006 Office Action, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)/§ 102(e) over Bush et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,461,442; hereinafter *Bush*). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Specifically, *Bush* fails to disclose or suggest a process that includes at least flowing the solvent away from a drum to carry away coating material removed from the inside surface and the outside surface of the first end of the drum, wherein an inner sponge section of a sponge material has internal channels for flowing the solvent away from the drum and an outer sponge section of said sponge material has internal channels for flowing the solvent away from the drum, as recited in independent claim 1.

In contrast, *Bush* discloses a process for removing a strip of coating material from a first end of a drum by using a foam material to simultaneously wipe both the inside surface and the outside surface of the first end of the drum (*Bush*, abstract). *Bush's* foam material

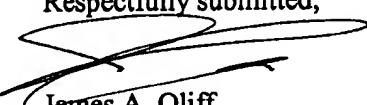
contains shallow drain grooves 76 that flows cleaning solvent away from the drum (*Bush*, col. 6, ll. 39-44). Although *Bush* mentions that the foam material may include multiple sections, and internal channeling is mentioned as a possibility (*Bush*, col. 11, ll. 35-40), *Bush* fails to disclose on which sections of the foam material to form the possible internal channels. Instead, *Bush* explicitly teaches that shallow drain grooves 76 are formed on the upper surface 70 of the foam material (*Bush* Figs. 4 and 5; col. 7, ll. 37-54). Therefore, *Bush* fails to disclose a process that includes at least flowing the solvent away from a drum to carry away coating material removed from the inside surface and the outside surface of the first end of the drum, wherein an inner sponge section of a sponge material has internal channels for flowing the solvent away from the drum and an outer sponge section of said sponge material has internal channels for flowing the solvent away from the drum, as recited in independent claim 1.

For at least these reasons, independent claim 1, and its dependent claims, are patentable over *Bush*. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)/§ 102(e) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:JCL

Date: January 8, 2007

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